EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 67 FR 60998, Sept. 27, 2002, §2551.45 was amended by republishing the introductory text and adding paragraph (f), effective Oct. 28, 2002. For the convenience of the user the added text follows:

#### § 2551.45 What cost reimbursements are provided to Senior Companions?

Cost reimbursements include:

\* \* \* \* \* \*

(f) Leadership incentive. Senior Companions who serve as volunteer leaders, assisting new Senior Companions or coordinating other Senior Companions in accordance with the Act, may be paid a monetary incentive.

#### § 2551.46 May the cost reimbursements of a Senior Companion be subject to any tax or charge, be treated as wages or compensation, or affect eligibility to receive assistance from other programs?

No. Senior Companion's cost reimbursements are not subject to any tax or charge or treated as wages or compensation for the purposes of unemployment insurance, worker's compensation, temporary disability, retirement, public assistance, or similar benefit payments or minimum wage laws. Cost reimbursements are not subject to garnishment and do not reduce or eliminate the level of, or eligibility for, assistance or services a Senior Companion may be receiving under any governmental program.

#### Subpart E—Senior Companion Terms of Service

#### § 2551.51 What are the terms of service of a Senior Companion?

A Senior Companion shall serve a minimum of nine months a year for an average of 20 hours of service a week. A Senior Companion shall not serve more than 1044 hours per year.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 67 FR 60998, Sept. 27, 2002, §2551.51 was revised, effective Oct. 28, 2002. For the convenience of the user the revised text follows:

## § 2551.51 What are the terms of service of a Senior Companion?

A Senior Companion shall serve a minimum of 15 hours per week and a maximum of 40 hours per week. A Senior Companion shall not serve more than 2088 hours per year. Within these limitations, a sponsor

may set service policies consistent with local needs.

# § 2551.52 What factors are considered in determining a Senior Companion's service schedule?

- (a) Travel time between the Senior Companion's home and place of assignment is not part of the service schedule and is not stipended.
- (b) Travel time between individual assignments is a part of the service schedule and is stipended.
- (c) Meal time may be part of the service schedule and is stipended only if it is specified in the goal statement as part of the service activity.

#### § 2551.53 Under what circumstances may a Senior Companion's service be terminated?

- (a) A sponsor may remove a Senior Companion from service for cause. Grounds for removal include but are not limited to: extensive and unauthorized absences; misconduct; inability to perform assignments; and failure to accept supervision. A Senior Companion may also be removed from service for having income in excess of the eligibility level.
- (b) The sponsor shall establish appropriate policies on service termination as well as procedures for appeal from such adverse action.

## Subpart F—Responsibilities of a Volunteer Station

## § 2551.61 When may a sponsor serve as a volunteer station?

- (a) A sponsor may function as a volunteer station if it is:
- (1) A State organization administering a statewide Senior Companion project where the volunteer station is part of the State organization; or
- (2) A Federal or State-recognized Indian tribal government.
- (b) Other sponsors not included in the categories specified in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section, can serve as a volunteer station provided that no more than 20 percent of its budgeted VSYs can be placed in programs administered by such sponsors. In special circumstances, the Corporation may grant a waiver to increase this percentage.